

We claim:

1. A method for communicating voice information, comprising:
receiving a call on a wireless phone; and
sending the call from the wireless phone to a hard-wired telephone.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
connecting the hard-wired telephone to only receive calls through the
wireless phone.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
generating an artificial dial tone when a receiver of the hard-wired
telephone is activated.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
connecting the hard-wired telephone to receive calls through the
wireless phone and through a public-switched telephone network.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said sending step includes:
sending a ring signal to the hard-wired telephone when the call is
received by the wireless phone.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 detecting a hook-state signal indicating that a receiver of the hard-wired telephone has been activated;
 connecting the call to the hard-wired telephone based on detection of the hook-state signal.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
 detecting termination of the call based on a hook-state signal indicating that the receiver of the hard-wired telephone has been de-activated.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 dialing a telephone number on the hard-wired telephone; and
 performing the following steps in said wireless phone:
 (a) detecting the dialed telephone number,
 (b) confirming validity of the dialed telephone number, and
 (c) automatically connecting the call through a wireless service provider if the dialed telephone number is valid.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein step (b) includes determining whether a number of digits in the dialed telephone number equals a predetermined number of digits corresponding to a valid telephone number.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
automatically de-activating a microphone and speaker of the wireless phone when the call is connected.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said sending step is performed based on authorization information stored on a smart card.

12. A method for communicating voice information, comprising:
connecting a wireless phone to a hard-wired telephone;
connecting the hard-wired telephone to a public-switched telephone network;
detecting a first call from one of the public-switched telephone network and a wireless service provider to which the wireless phone is connected;
and
blocking a second call from the other of the public-switched telephone network and a wireless service provider from reaching the hard-wired telephone during the first call.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
automatically sending the second call to voice messaging system.

09373049-060001
"00000" 54092360

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
outputting a missed-call signal indicating that the second call was received during the first call.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said missed-call signal causes the hard-wired telephone to activate a predetermined ring indicative of a missed call.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
detecting activation of a receiver of the hard-wired telephone in response to said predetermined ring; and
automatically connecting the hard-wired telephone to a voice messaging system based on said detecting step.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
detecting activation of a receiver of the hard-wired telephone in response to said predetermined ring; and
outputting audible information indicating that the second call was missed.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said audible information includes one of a tone and a voice-synthesized message.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
automatically connecting the hard-wired telephone to a voice
messaging system after said outputting step.

20. A method for communicating voice information, comprising:
receiving a call on one of a plurality of a wireless phones connected
to a hard-wired telephone;
sending the call from said one wireless phone to the hard-wired
telephone; and
blocking calls received on the other of said plurality of wireless
phones from being forwarded to the hard-wired telephone.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
generating an alert signal indicating that one of the other of said
plurality of wireless phones received a call during the call forwarded to the hard-
wired telephone.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said blocking step includes
disconnecting the other of said plurality of wireless phones from the hard-wired
telephone.

23. A method for communicating voice information, comprising:

monitoring a plurality of wireless phones;

detecting when one of said wireless phones has received a call; and

sending the call from said one of said wireless phones to a hard-wired

telephone.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

generating a signal for preventing calls received by the other of said

plurality of wireless phones from being forwarded to the hard-wired telephone during

the call forwarded to the hard-wired telephone.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

generating a different ring signal for the hard-wired telephone for each

of said plurality of said plurality wireless phones.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

controlling a time of activation of at least one of said plurality of

wireless phones during which calls are forwarded to the hard-wired telephone.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

controlling times of activation of said plurality of wireless phones,

108090" 61092860

32. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
connecting the interface unit to an antenna.

33. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
providing a lock for controlling activation of said interface unit.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said lock is one of a key-type lock
and an electronic combination code.

35. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
connecting at least two of said connectors to different hard-wired
telephones.

36. The method of claim 28, wherein said interface unit includes a card
reader and wherein said method further comprises:
inserting a card containing authorization information into the card
reader; and
activating one of said connectors based the authorization information
stored on the card.

37. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
 connecting the processor of the interface unit to a communications link;
 downloading programming information along the communications link to the processor; and
 programming the processor based on said programming information.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the communications link includes a connection to a network server.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein said communications link is one of a wireless link, a cable modem link, or a land-line link.

~~40.~~ A method for communicating voice information, comprising:
 receiving a call on a wireless device; and
 sending the call from the wireless device to a hard-wired telephone.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the wireless device is one of a personal digital assistant, web-enabled phone, mobile phone, and a pocket PC.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein the wireless device is connected to the hard-wired telephone by a wireless connection.

43. An interface unit, comprising:

a connector for mating with a voice communications port of a wireless device, said connector linked to a hard-wired telephone for sending a call received by the wireless device to the hard-wired telephone.

44. The interface unit of claim 43, wherein said wireless device is one of a wireless phone, web-enabled phone, personal digital assistant, and pocket PC.

45. The interface unit of claim 43, wherein the connector is linked to the hard-wired telephone by one of a cable, an optical fiber, and a wireless link.

46. The interface unit of claim 43, further comprising:

a battery charger for charging a battery of the wireless device.

47. The interface unit of claim 43, further comprising:

means for changing the wireless device from a standard operating mode to an interface mode, wherein in said interface mode the wireless device is configured to output a call to the hard-wired telephone through the connector.

48. The interface unit of claim 47, wherein said mode-changing means includes a stud included in a housing of the interface unit, said stud being located at a position which coincides with a mode-changing button on the wireless device, said

stud pushing the mode-changing button on the wireless device when the voice communications port of the wireless device is mated to the connector.

49. The interface unit of claim 47, wherein said mode-changing means includes a first electrode exposed along a surface of a housing of the interface unit, said first electrode located at a position which coincides with a second electrode on the wireless device, wherein contact between said first electrode and said second electrode converts the wireless device to said interface mode.

50. The interface unit of claim 43, further comprising:
a processor which outputs an artificial dial tone signal to the hard-wired telephone when a receiver of the hard-wired telephone is activated.

51. The interface unit of claim 43, further comprising:
an input port for receiving a communications line from a public-switched telephone network; and
a control unit which coordinates connection of calls from the wireless device and the public-switched telephone network to the hard-wired telephone through the connector.

52. The interface unit of claim 51, wherein when a first call is received from one of the wireless device and public-switched telephone network, the control

unit prevents the other of the wireless device and public-switched telephone network from sending a second call to the connector during the first call.

53. The interface unit of claim 43, further comprising:

an input port for receiving a communications line from a public-switched telephone network; and

a selector which allows a user to manually select when calls from the public-switched telephone network and the wireless device are to be sent to the hard-wired telephone through the connector.

54. The interface unit of claim 53, wherein when the selector is set to one of the public-switched telephone network and the wireless device, the selector prevents the other of the public-switched telephone network and the wireless device from sending calls to the hard-wired telephone through the connector.

55. The interface unit of claim 43, further comprising:

a reader which reads authorization information from a smart card; and

a processor which controls activation of the connector based on whether the authorization information read by the reader is valid.

56. The interface unit of claim 43, further comprising:

a housing having a slot sized to substantially correspond to dimensions of the wireless device, said connector being mounted within said slot.

57. The interface unit of claim 43, further comprising:

a connection point for a high-power antenna, said high-power antenna boosting reception by the wireless device.

58. The method of claim 43, further comprising:

a lock for controlling activation of said interface unit.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein said lock is one of a key-type lock

and a combination code.

60. An interface unit, comprising:

a plurality of connectors each mating with a voice communications port of a respective wireless device and each linked to at least one hard-wired telephone for sending a call received by said respective wireless device to the hard-wired telephone.

61. The interface unit of claim 60, further comprising:

a selector which selects an activation status of each of said connectors.

09076049 050801
T08090 6402860

62. The interface unit of claim 60, further comprising:

a switch which prevents ones of said connectors which have not been selected by said selector from sending calls to the hard-wired telephone.

63. The interface unit of claim 60, a processor which prevents unselected connectors from sending calls to the hard-wired telephone.

64. The interface unit of claim 63, wherein the processor outputs blocking signals to the unselected connectors for de-activating the wireless devices connected to the unselected connector.

65. The interface unit of claim 61, further comprising:

a display;

a processor for outputting information to the display, said information including at least one of information indicative of the activation status of the connectors, a menu of selectable system functions, answering machine activation state, caller identification, and connection/disconnection to a public-switched telephone network.

66. The interface unit of claim 60, further comprising:

an answering machine; and

a processor which connects a call received by one of said wireless devices to the answering machine when a call from another one of said wireless devices is connected to the hard-wired telephone.

67. The interface unit of claim 60, further comprising:
a processor which controls a time of activation of said connectors.

68. The interface unit of claim 60, wherein at least two of the connectors are connected to different hard-wired telephones.

69. The interface unit of claim 60, wherein said connectors are connected to multiple hard-wired telephones, and wherein said interface unit comprises:
a processor which controls connection between said connectors and said hard-wired telephones based on a location of said hard-wired telephones.

~~70.~~ A personal communications system, comprising:
a wireless device including a voice communications port; and
an interface unit including a connector which mates with the voice communications port of the wireless device, said connector linked to a hard-wired telephone for conveying a call received by the wireless device to the hard-wired telephone.

71. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the wireless device is one of a wireless phone, a web-enabled phone, a personal digital assistant, and a pocket PC.

72. The personal communications system of claim 70, further comprising:
means for determining when the connector of the interface unit mates with the voice communications port of the wireless device.

73. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the wireless device includes:

a processor which detects a hook-state signal indicating that a receiver of the hard-wired telephone has been activated, and connects the call to the hard-wired telephone based on detection of the hook-state signal.

74. The personal communications system of claim 73, wherein the processor detects termination of the call based on a hook-state signal indicating that the receiver of the hard-wired telephone has been de-activated.

75. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the wireless device includes:

a buffer which stores a telephone number dialed on the hard-wired telephone; and

090376049 060001
T08090" 64092860

a processor which determines whether the telephone number stored in the buffer is valid, and if valid, automatically connects the call to a wireless service provider.

76. The personal communications system of claim 75, wherein the processor determines whether the telephone number is valid by comparing whether a number of digits in the dialed telephone number stored in the buffer equals a predetermined number of digits corresponding to a valid telephone number.

77. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the wireless device includes a processor which automatically de-activates at least one of a microphone and speaker of the wireless device, when the call is sent to the hard-wired telephone through the connector or when the hard-wired telephone sends a call to a wireless service provider through the connector.

78. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the interface unit is connected to the hard-wired telephone so that the hard-wired telephone only receives calls through the wireless device.

79. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the interface unit includes a battery re-charger for the wireless device.

80. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the connector of the interface unit is connected to a plurality of hard-wired telephones, and wherein a processor of the interface unit controls to which of said hard-wired telephones the call is to be sent.

81. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the interface unit includes a plurality of connectors which mates with the voice communications ports of a respective plurality of wireless devices, each of said connectors linked to at least one hard-wired telephone for conveying call received by the wireless devices to the at least one hard-wired telephone.

82. The personal communications system of claim 81, the interface unit includes:

a processor which controls activation states of the connectors,

wherein when a call is sent to the hard-wired telephone through one of the connectors, the processor controls activation states of the other connectors to block calls from being conveyed to the hard-wired telephone through the other connectors.

83. The personal communications system of claim 82, wherein when a call received by one of the wireless devices is blocked by the processor, the processor

a processor which controls activation of the connector based on whether the authorization information read by the reader is valid.

89. The personal communications system of claim 70, wherein the interface unit includes a lock.

90. A removable storage device, comprising:
a recording medium which stores information for activating a wireless communications device to receive or place calls through a wireless service provider.

91. The removable storage device of claim 90, wherein said information includes identification information for identifying a user within a system maintained by the wireless service provider.

92. The removable storage device of claim 91, wherein said identification information includes a telephone number of a user.

93. The removable storage device of claim 90, further comprising:
a housing adapted for insertion into a reader of the wireless communications unit.

94. The removable storage device of claim 93, wherein the housing is in a shape of a card, stick, or strip.

95. A personal communications system, comprising:
a wireless communications unit;
a reader connected to the wireless communications unit; and
a removable recording medium which stores information for activating the wireless communications device to receive or place calls through a wireless service provider, said removable recording medium adapted for insertion into the reader.

96. The personal communications system of claim 95, wherein the wireless communications unit and reader are located in one of a car, an appliance, a television, a hard-wired telephone, and a wireless device.

97. The personal communications system of claim 96, wherein the wireless communications unit is connected to a handset of the hard-wired telephone.

98. The personal communications system of claim 97, wherein the wireless communications unit includes a processor which outputs a signal to a processor of the hard-wired telephone for disabling the hard-wired telephone when the removable recording medium is inserted into the reader.

09876049-060801
99. A wireless communications unit, comprising:

a processor unit for processing calls; and

a reader which reads information from a recording medium which stores information for activating the processor to receive or place calls through a wireless service provider.

100. The wireless communication unit of claim 99, wherein the processor and reader are incorporated within one of a car, an appliance, a television, a hard-wired telephone, and a wireless device.

101. A personal communications device, comprising:

an input unit for receiving activation information;

a memory unit for storing the activation information; and

a processor for automatically establishing communications with a wireless service provider based on said activation information, said processor automatically de-activating another telephone number to which said processor had been previously activated.

102. The personal communications device of claim 101, further comprising:

a display,

wherein said processor automatically prompts a user to enter said activation information upon start-up of said device.

103. The personal communications device of claim 101, wherein said processor automatically de-activates said another telephone number by transmitting a signal to the wireless service provider indicating that the another telephone number is no longer available to receive calls.

104. The personal communication device of claim 101, wherein said activation information includes a telephone number on the wireless service provider network.

105. The personal communications device of claim 104, wherein said activation information further includes security information, said processor or a processor at a wireless service provider comparing said security information with stored information to determine authorized use of said unit.

106. The personal communications device of claim 101, wherein said input unit receives time-of-activation information, and said processor controls a period of communications based on said time-of-activation information.

107. A hard-wired telephone, comprising:

a keypad;

a transceiver; and

a wireless communications unit which includes:

- (a) a memory unit for storing activation information input through said keypad, and
- (b) a processor for automatically establishing communications with a wireless service provider based on said activation information, said processor forwarding in-coming calls to the transceiver.

108. A communications system, comprising:

a hard-wired telephone including a keypad and a transceiver; and

a wireless communications unit remotely located from said hard-wired

telephone, said wireless communications unit having:

- (a) a memory unit for storing activation information input through said keypad, and
- (b) a processor for automatically establishing communications with a wireless service provider based on said activation information, said processor forwarding in-coming calls to the transceiver.